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TWO THOREAU LETTERS AT HARVARD by Ray Angelo

While I was doing some research in the Gray Herbarium Library at Harvard University for a botanical index to Thoreau's *Journal*, staff member, Lynn McWhood, casually remarked that some items she was cataloging might be of interest to me. From a mass of uncataloged papers belonging to teacher and amateur botanist, Walter Deane, she produced a slim folder which contained to my surprise two manuscript letters of Thoreau as well as correspondence from H.G.O. Blake and Edward S. Hoar to Deane.

Walter Deane (1848-1930) of Cambridge, Mass. was an avid collector of autographs, letters and photographs of botanists. He was one of the twelve charter members of the New England Botanical Club and was a good friend of Concord ornithologist, William Brewster (1851-1919). Evidently, he became acquainted with Thoreau's friend and fellow townsman, Edward S. Hoar (1823-1893), owing to Hoar's botanical interest and possession of Thoreau's collection of grasses and sedges. The letters indicate that Deane had the collection on loan from Hoar in 1886.

In 1886 Deane asked Hoar to secure an autograph letter of Thoreau for him. Hoar acquired from H.G.O. Blake (1816-1898) of Worcester, Thoreau's disciple and literary executor, a signature cut from the letter to Blake dated March 27, 1848 and forwarded it to Deane. This letter is the very first in the lengthy series Thoreau wrote to Blake. The signature is still among Deane's papers.

In 1888 Deane applied directly to Blake for an autographed letter of Thoreau and a copy of the Maxham daguerreotype. Blake obliged by sending Deane the letter Thoreau wrote to him dated Oct. 5, 1854 due to its slight reference to botany. This letter has previously been published, the surveying text hitherto known only from a copy not in Thoreau's hand in the Berg collection. The only difference worth noting between the published text (see Harding & Bode, pp. 342-3) and the original is the underlining in the original of the name "Chumly" for emphasis. Blake also loaned his copy of the Maxham daguerreotype to Deane to have it copied in Boston.

Another of Thoreau's friends known by Deane was Benjamin Marston Watson (1820-1896), a horticulturist whose Old Colony Nurseries in Plymouth, Mass. became a favorite retreat for Transcendentalists. Apparently, Watson was a good friend of Deane's father. On a visit to Watson in Plymouth in 1887 Deane received from him a note written by Thoreau to Watson dated Aug. 5, 1845, that is only one month after Thoreau had taken up residence at Walden. The note, which lacks a salutation, is clearly a cover letter for some fruit Thoreau was forwarding to Watson. "Marston Watson" is written in Thoreau's hand on the reverse side. The light blue paper of the note is stained in a number of places, possibly from the juices of the accompanying berries and cherries.

The Thoreau Society, Inc. is an informal gathering of students and followers of Henry David Thoreau. Ann Zwinger, Colorado Springs, Co., president; Marion Wheeler, Concord, Mass., vice-president; Walter Harding, SUNY, Geneseo, N.Y. 14454, secretary. Address communications to the secretary.

Dues (\$5.00 a year; life membership, \$100.00) should be sent to the Thoreau Society, Inc., P. O. Box 165, Concord, Mass. 01742.

The text of this note to Marston Watson is here published for the first time with permission of the Director of the Gray Herbarium, Harvard University:

One box is full of red huckleberries warranted not to change their hue, or lose their virtues in any climate, though I will not speak for the condition of this box when opened.

The other contains half a dozen cherries (Sand Cherries, Bigelow ?) The last grew within a rod of my lodge. I plucked them all today

The third box -- which should contain the seeds of the *Carpinus Americana* -- hophornbeam -- False Elm &c waits for their seeds to ripen

Yrs

Henry D. Thoreau

Aug 5th 1845

"Red Huckleberries" refers to a pale-fruited form of Black Huckleberry (namely *Gaylussacia baccata*)



Drawing by David Schorr
from No Witness: Poems
by Paul Monette
(New York: Avon, 1981)

forma leucocarpa). While the typical Black Huckleberry is very common in Concord, the pale-fruited form is rather scarce. References to it in the Journal are: I 435, IV 462, V 333, 352, 354, VII 9, IX 7, 91, 371, 409, 411, 479, XII 313. Two paragraphs are devoted to it in Thoreau's essay, "Huckleberries".

Sand Cherry (Prunus susquehanae) is an uncommon shrub in Concord found in dry, sandy, open situations. It still grows within a quarter of a mile (if not closer) of Thoreau's house site at Walden. "Bigelow" is a reference to Jacob Bigelow's Florula Bostoniensis, the first botany manual Thoreau used.

"Carpinus Americana" is known to modern botanists as Carpinus caroliniana, or commonly as Ironwood or American Hornbeam. It is a small tree of moist, rich woods and is also uncommon in Concord. Closely related to it is Hop-hornbeam (Ostrya virginiana) whose fruit looks like hops. This is evidently the plant referred to in the note as "hop-wood".

The rarest of the species Thoreau lists is the last one mentioned, "False Elm". This is another name for American Hackberry (Celtis occidentalis), also known as Nettle-tree and Sugarberry (from its sweet-fleshed fruit). Thoreau knew of only a few small trees of this in Concord, all growing on Nashawtuc Hill where it still survives.

The intent of the transmittal was apparently to supply Mr. Watson with seeds of some of Concord's more unusual shrubs and trees for purposes of propagation. It was in this very year (1845) that Watson initiated Old Colony Nurseries in Plymouth. Interestingly, three of the plants (Red Huckleberry, Sand Cherry, Nettle-tree) are mentioned together in the Economy chapter of Walden (p. 18, Princeton ed.) as being among those that Thoreau tended in years of drought.

NOTES ON SOME ERRORS IN HENRY SEIDEL CANBY'S THOREAU. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1939). by Lawrence H. Conrad

[Editor's Note: Some months ago Professor Lawrence H. Conrad of San Diego, California, sent us these notes for publication in the bulletin. Because of a backlog of articles on hand their publication has been delayed until now. Sadly we have received word that Prof. Conrad died on July 3, 1982 at the age of 84. He was for many years a member of the Thoreau Society, often attended the annual meetings, and was always a devoted Thoreauvian.]

Page 48. "Only Charles Stearns Davis, a scholar of brilliant promise and one of the Harvardians group, was his friend among the well known in Harvard in his day. With him Thoreau went camping, and it was with Davis in his freshman year that he walked home to Concord, the last two miles in his stocking feet."

This reference is an error. It was Wheeler, not Davis, with whom Thoreau camped (if he did with anybody), and with whom he walked home from Cambridge in 1834. (I have called this error to Canby's notice, and have a letter from him confirming it. He did not say whether the error had been noticed by anyone else.)

Page 69. "One [girl] was to arrive in June of 1839, and it is questionable whether the amorous or the austere brother fell in love with her first."

This reference could be to no one but Ellen Sewall, the only girl the two brothers both fell in love with.

But in the same book, page 111, the same author says, "She came in July of that year to visit Mrs.

Thoreau and the Wards. Ellen Devereux Sewall, who was seventeen when her mother brought her to Concord"

On page 112, Canby says, "Ellen arrived at the Thoreau's by stage on the Twentieth of July"

The discrepancy in dates would not be very significant, except that Canby "proves" his whole theory of a love affair between Ellen and Henry Thoreau by showing that the entries in Thoreau's dated, day-by-day journal might have had reference to the comings and goings of this damsel. For this purpose, then, he needs accurate, day-by-day information about Ellen. It would appear doubtful whether such information can be had.

Page 115. Here Canby quotes the passage from Henry's journal for July 19, 1840, and in the three following pages tries to make the passage support a whole story of unrequited love, all of which could easily be made up by Canby, and none of which find tangible support in the journal passage which he quotes. His tale of Ellen Sewall may be quite groundless.

Page 156. "It is probable that the sudden death of little Waldo in January of 1842, followed by the death of Henry's beloved John in the same month, brought them closer together."

This is a curious error, to suppose that little Waldo Emerson died before John Thoreau. It would be of small consequence, except that Canby uses the sequence to prove a point which would not be proved if the events were reversed in time, as indeed they were.

On page 164, same book, Canby says "The elaborate ornithological record kept by his brother John went, at his death on January 11, 1842, to Henry"

Again, on page 177, ".... he died in agony on January 11, with Henry beside him." And a reference from this date to Canby's Notes says, "The date in the Vital-Statistics of Concord is wrong, and both the day of his death and a relevant letter are misdated by Sanborn (Op. cit. 213,214). The Concord Freeman for January 14 gives the correct date."

Sanborn, incidentally, in Henry D. Thoreau, Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1882, on page 175, says John died in February, 1842. That Canby has corrected Sanborn's error is to his credit. That he should in the very act, fall into one of his own on the same point is to be regretted, for he thereby contributes to the confusion he has sought to end. It would seem that Canby did all of his reasoning on the basis of Sanborn's erroneous date; that he corrected Sanborn, but persisted in his own thinking as though no correction had ever been made.

Page 169, Canby says, "The death of little Waldo Emerson, Thoreau's favorite, on January 27, 1842, had brought them closer together, although it was Lidian who admitted him to the intimacy of grief. His own loss of John in the same month softened him still more."

Here, even in this final passage to be cited, and after he has himself written down the exact dates of the two deaths, Canby in his "still more" is evidently continuing his first mistake of thinking that young Waldo died first. But we know that John Thoreau died sixteen days before Waldo. Hence it could not have been a case of "Lidian who admitted him [Henry] to the intimacy of grief." And if that could not have been true just then, perhaps some other implications that appear fairly plausible in Canby's analysis of

the relationship of Thoreau to Mrs. Emerson may likewise fall to the ground. The supports are all quite slender. If one buckles, as this one quite patently does, there may not be enough remaining to support the structure.

And let no one suppose that you could reverse the relationship, once the order of the dates is corrected, and say, "Well, then, since John died first, it must have been Henry who admitted Lidian to the intimacy of his grief!" We know too much about Henry Thoreau to accept such a supposition. Canby's own conception of the man would not allow it.

THE PROVINCETOWN BURGLARY by James H. Ellis

In Cape Cod, Thoreau, with some delight, concludes his chapter on "The Wellfleet Oysterman" by noting that the Newcomb family "at least transiently" suspected Thoreau and Channing to have been the "two men from the interior" who had "broken open and robbed" the safe of "the Provincetown Bank."

Was there a basis to this account?

The facts behind the incident are interesting if only because serious crime was rare on the Cape at the time. Indeed, Thoreau elsewhere noted the periodic sessions of the local court sometimes were without a single criminal case to try, and the county jail was "shut up... 'to let' when we were there." In such a setting, the crime was a local sensation.

Thoreau's brief description was close enough to the facts. During the night of Tuesday, October 23, 1849 a break occurred at the Union Wharf Company in Provincetown. The burglar or burglars drilled a hole through the door of the safe and sprung the lock. Bills of the Freeman Bank of Boston, reportedly to the amount of \$20,000, were taken.

A number of people, including Thoreau and Channing, became initial suspects. A man named Kenan was detained in Boston for interrogation. But the prime suspects were two men who the day before arrived by train in Sandwich. The pair hired a horse and carriage, made their way to Provincetown by Tuesday, and hastily returned to Sandwich, making the Wednesday afternoon train by ten minutes. They drew added suspicion by using various names and paying one bill with some counterfeit money. A local newspaper concluded: "There seems but little doubt that these men committed the robbery."¹

Within a few days Thoreau and his companion were off the hook in the Newcomb household. A notorious pair of brothers were arrested for the crime. Ebenezer Learned was caught in Boston, and Abijah Learned was pursued to Brimfield and taken. The Patriot, quoting the Boston Daily Advertiser, reported "both have been identified as having been seen, at various places, on the Cape, on the day before and after the robbery." More damaging, both "have been convicts in the State Prison at Charlestown." Ebenezer had been judged a "common and notorious thief" and Abijah had served time for robbing the Milford Bank.²

At their subsequent arraignment, the brothers posted \$10,000 bond each. The evidence against the Learneds was said to be "strong." Testimony placed the loss at \$15,000.³

At the Grand Jury session in Barnstable during the following April, however, there were no bills of indictment returned. The Learneds were present to answer to their bonds, but "no evidence of any consequence" was presented against them. And the brothers

were discharged.⁴

Unaware he had been suspected of a felony, Thoreau returned to Provincetown and the Cape in June. Since available sources do not indicate the case ever was cleared, one can imagine the Cape authorities this time kept their eyes on Thoreau.

¹Barnstable Patriot, October 31, 1849, p. 2.

²Ibid., November 7, 1849, p. 2.

³Ibid., November 14, 1849, p. 2.

⁴Ibid., April 9, 1850, p. 2.

A VISIT TO WALDEN by Elwood Lloyd

(Editor's Note: Recently in going through my files I discovered a letter from the late Elwood Lloyd of Potrero, California, written in 1949. I found it so delightful that I am taking the liberty of sharing it with our membership.)

In 1901, as a young telephone engineer, I traveled extensively through the New England States and, naturally, some one suggested the reading of "Walden" for greater appreciation of the area.

One June day of that year I completed the reading of the book in the American Hotel at Pittsfield. As I closed the covers I sat quietly, thinking, for a few moments. Then I walked over to the registration desk and asked the clerk the quickest way to get to Concord. I simply had to complete the story by seeing Walden Pond.

The clerk said, "Go to Boston and take a train from there. A train is leaving for Boston in about fifteen minutes. You can catch it if you hurry."

I caught the train. In a short time I was in the office of The Inn at Concord, asking directions to Walden Pond.

The summer afternoon was delightful in the drowsy village. I enjoyed my leisurely amble along the shaded streets. But when I was about halfway to the Pond I was struck by a disturbing thought and stopped suddenly in my tracks.

"Wait a minute", I said to myself. "You're due for a terrible disappointment. Thoreau wrote the story of Walden Pond about half a century ago. Now it is probably a resort with hotdog stands, chute-the-chutes, popcorn whistles, noisy bathers and squalling babies. Wouldn't that be an awful comparison to the delightful word picture you gained from the book? Better let well enough alone. Remember Walden as Thoreau saw it."

Whereupon I retraced my walk to the Inn, went to Boston, returned to Pittsfield and again took up my engineering itinerary... happy in the thought I had saved my treasured picture.

Now we jump ahead a little more than twenty years... two decades in which I had kept the picture completely untarnished... to November of 1921.

At that time I was visiting in Boston while making a leisurely journey around the United States in a mammoth housecar. The great car was one I designed and had built on a large GMC truck chassis. I named it "The Snail" because it carried its house on its back and didn't travel very fast.

Because I had sleeping and cooking accommodations for nine persons on the great land craft I took great delight in arranging week-end parties for newspaper and magazine editors and their families. My selection for this distinction in Boston was Morton Birge, then editor of The Traveler.

When I suggested the outing to Mr. Birge, he said, "Fine! I know just the place you will enjoy. We'll go to Walden Pond."

"No can do.", I replied. "You'll have to think of some other place. I have a memory picture I've treasured for many a year and I'm not going to have it spoiled at this late date." Then I told him of my excursion toward Walden Pond twenty years before.

"O.K., have it your way", Birge said, after I had completed my story. You just drive the car and I'll tell you which roads to take. I'll guarantee we'll find a place you'll enjoy and you need have no fear of upsetting your fine memories."

So away we rolled that week-end in the bright sunshine and tangy November air. Finally we pulled alongside a beautiful little lake, peaceful, quiet, and undisturbed by people.

"How do you like this?", Birge asked, with a friendly twinkle in his eye.

"Marvelous", I replied. "It is just like my memory picture of Walden. All it needs is the cry of the loon to make it complete." Then, across the still water came the eerie cry.

"Right you are", said Birge. "You'll want to be alone here for a bit. So, while Mrs. Birge is setting out the lunch, you take a walk along the shore. See if you can find a pebble to place on the cairn which has been heaped by loving hands upon the spot where Thoreau's cabin stood."

And there, on Walden's shore, I re-read portions of WALDEN for the joy of seeing, through his eyes and mine, the intimate beauty of the sylvan spot. The picture was "fixed" for all time.

In the twenty-eight years which have since elapsed I have often yearned to make a return journey to Walden Pond. But always I have been a mite fearful that changes might have been made, or the place cursed by modernization. So I have steadfastly remained away.

But I was made happy a few months ago by a friend in Los Angeles who tells me the Pond still retains all its pristine beauty.

I shall probably never actually see Walden Pond again. But I have it with me always. And here, in the rugged mountain country of San Diego County, California (40 miles east of the City of San Diego and right on the Mexican border) we are living a Walden of our own.

We have no placid pond in which to fish, or from which to take ice. But we do have flowing springs to which all manner of wild creatures come to drink and become friendly.

Rabbits hop about, close by, quite unafraid. Crested mountain quail make free with our growing things. Five friendly buzzards nest in our eucalyptus trees. A litter of frolicsome red foxes sometimes come to coax our two red cocker spaniels out for a play.

A chorus of birdsong, echoing from the surrounding hills, awakens us about daybreak for another glorious day of bright sunshine. Mockingbirds carol. Scintillating hummingbirds flit around Mary and Flirt with her bright head-scarf as she works among her flowers. Linnets crowd the rim of the drinking trough and tell the dogs to rest their thirst until they have had their fill.

Sometimes we hear the cry of a mountain lion in a nearby canyon at night, and once in a while we see one crossing the lower road between our home and the highway.

There are times when we wish the skunks were not so inquisitively chummy, but none have ever done us wrong... with the single exception of the time I endeavored to extricate one's head from a coffee jar in which it had become wedged.

The song of the coyote wafts over the hills on moon-lit nights.

Just a day or two ago partner Mary met a wild cat, face to face, as she was on her way to dispose of some refuse in an adjacent gully, but they merely passed a friendly word or two and each went her own way.

Our place, on the side of the mountain (elevation 2,400 to 3,000 feet) is primeval wildness. It is covered with liveoaks, white oaks, manzanita and all the varied chapparel growth of the semi-arid country... and wildflowers in bloom throughout the year. Never a week in the twelvemonth when we cannot find a plentitude of colorful bloom.

Each month we scout about our own land and list all the flowers we can identify... in June there were 52 varieties we could definitely name although there were many, many more tiny ones not shown in our flower guides.

According to the survey of our land we have but 32 acres. But it is so filled with canyons, arroyas, ridges, hills and steepy climbs, with great masses of outcropping granite boulders, we often remark it would surely measure a full section if we could have it ironed out level. So rough! Although it is a full four years since we tried hiding away out here there are still sections of the 32 acres we have not yet explored. But we are in no hurry to do so, for we are continually making new and joyous discoveries... just a few weeks ago we came upon an outcropping vein of beautiful rose quartz... to the great joy of our "rockhound" friends in the city.

For forty-eight years (almost half a century) Thoreau's story of Walden Pond has been the dominating influence in the life and mode of thought of that young telephone engineer who first discovered its meaning back there in Pittsfield.

For many years he harbored a slight tinge of jealousy for Thoreau's freedom and ability to grow close to nature and the philosophic lessons Nature teaches.

But now that jealousy is entirely gone for he feels he is much more fortunate than Thoreau was. He has, as mate and companion, one who views all forms of life through the same tone of amber-colored glasses... and amber glasses are the kind which tone down the harsh highlights and accentuate the soothing, joyous tints.

ADDITIONS TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY...WH
(Most of the books listed below may be ordered from the Thoreau Lyceum, 156 Belknap St., Concord, Mass. 01742.)

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Byron, Gilbert. "Thoreau's Musquash" in SUNBATHING WITH THE PROFESSORS. Easton, Md.: Unicorn Book Shop, 1982, p. 15. A poem. [Society members may order this volume, which has a number of references to Thoreau, for \$5, a discounted price, from the Unicorn, 24, E. Wash. St., Easton 21601.] For an article on Byron see Gary Soulsman, "Chesapeake's Thoreau"

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- GREAT SHORT WORKS OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU. Edited with an introduction by Wendell Glick. New York: Harper & Row (Perennial Library), 1982. 384pp. Paper-

back edition. Includes "A Winter Walk," "Ktaadn," Letters to Blake, "Reform and Reformers," "Resistance to Civil Government," "Friendship," "Slavery in Massachusetts," and excerpts from WALDEN and the Journal, "The Shipwreck," "Plea for Cpt. John Brown," "Walking," "Autumnal Tints," "Life without Principle," and a chronology and bibliography.

----- IN THE WOODS AND FIELDS OF CONCORD: SELECTIONS FROM THE JOURNALS OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU. Edited with an introduction by Walter Harding. Drawings by Mads Stage. Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith, 1982. 150pp. Paperback. This is not another of those "Thoughts of Thoreau," but an excellent collection of over one hundred vivid nature "essays" gleaned from the JOURNAL and arranged chronologically. Mostly from the mid-1850s, the extracts range in length from a single paragraph to six pages. They show the ever-curious, always closely observant Thoreau interacting intimately (almost lovingly) with the animals and plants of Concord's woods and fields--and of its swamps, ponds, mudholes, rivers, and meadows. Only Thoreau could have found so much marvellous variety in one small town. Over 50 evocative and moody ink sketches by Mads Stage and an introduction by the editor complement the excerpts nicely. Some sloppy proofreading mar the first printing. Ideal reading for snowy winter evenings by the fire.--Edmund A. Schfield.

----- "Thoreau on Observation," SANCTUARY, 22 (Jan. 1983), 4-5. Selections from the Journal, by Anne McGrath.

----- WALDEN. Trans. into Chinese by Meng Hsian Shen. Taipei: Youn Chin, 1982. Includes also "Civil Disobedience," selections from the JOURNAL, and George Hendrick's "The Influence of Thoreau's 'Civil Disobedience' on Gandhi's SATYAGRAHA."

----- WALDEN. Padadena, Ca.: Cassette Book Library. 1982. A tape recording read by John Carradine.

----- A WEEK ON THE CONCORD AND MERRIMACK RIVERS. Norwalk, Conn.: Easton Press, 1981. 327pp. A sumptuously reproduced reprint of the Limited Editions Club edition with an introduction by Charles Anderson and illustrations by R.J. Holden.

VanDore, Wade. "Abstraction: Nature Seen at an Angle," CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR. Dec. 13, 1982. Thoreau and Andrew Wyeth compared.

We are indebted to the following for information in this bulletin: F. Arnstein, H. Bird-sall, A. Bussewitz, T. Balaam, J. Butkiss, R. Chapman, F. Dedmond, M. Detterline, R. Epler, F. Fenn, L. Fergenson, R. Ganley, J. Hutchinson, E. Johnson, R. Jones, D. Kamen-Kaye, K. Kasegawa, A. Kovar, S. Mayers, M. Meyer, R. Needham, R. Poland, G. Ryan, A. Small, E. Shaw, R. Thompson, P. Williams and K. Liang. Please keep the secretary informed of items he has missed and new items as they appear.

NECROLOGY . . .

Hilda Thatcher (Mrs. Henry J.) Wheelwright of Orono, Maine, died at her home on June

24, 1982. As the great, great, great granddaughter of Thoreau's Aunt Nancy Thoreau Billings of Bangor, she was Thoreau's nearest remaining relative. A gracious hostess, she took great delight in showing the Thoreau family treasures she had inherited and in reminiscing about the Bangor branch of the Thoreau family. She was always most helpful with Thoreau scholars and we recall with great pleasure spending an afternoon at her home a few years ago looking over the family papers. She was 88 and is survived by a son, a daughter, seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Robert Wild died recently in Lincoln, Mass. A sculptor, he created a miniature statue of Thoreau walking that a number of the members of the society treasure. (See Thoreau Society Bulletin #33). He also created the reproduction of the Walton Ricketson bust of Thoreau that is now in the Thoreau Lyceum. Bob was long active in the Thoreau Society, served a number of years on the executive committee and regularly helped in the collection of dues at the annual meeting. In poor health for many years, he nonetheless had a sense of humor and wit that was the delight of his many friends. Gifts to the Thoreau Society in his memory are being sent to Mrs. Russell Wheeler, 91 Hayward Court, Concord, Mass. 01742.

THE MAPS IN WALDEN by Jim Dawson

Out of my collection of over thirty editions of WALDEN, I find that only ten editions bothered to print Thoreau's map of Walden. On closely examining the maps, I find that in no instance, including the 1854 first printing, has the map ever been printed in exactly correct scale. In the first printing, the outside borders of the map measure 6 5/16 by 3 1/2 inches. The scale is 40 rods to the inch. The line of greatest length on the pond measures 4 1/4 inches. Multiply this by 40 rods and we get 170 rods. Thoreau states on the map that the line of greatest length measures 175 1/2 rods, so the map is slightly off. If we use a scale of 41 rods to the inch, we get 174 1/4 rods which is very close, and using 41 1/4 rods to the inch, we get 175.31 rods.

On looking at the other editions of the map, it seems clear that printers either regarded the map as mere decoration or honestly did not realize that any change in size from the original 6 5/16 by 3 1/2 inches would change the size of the pond radically. The breakdown is as follows, giving first the edition and date, the overall size of its map in inches, the greatest length of the pond in inches, and finally the resulting length of the pond: Houghton Mifflin, 2 volume edition of 1897: 5 3/4 x 3 1/4, 3 14/16, 155 rods; Variorum Walden, paperback edition, 1963: 6 3/16 x 3 6/16, 4 3/16, 167.5 rods; Anchor Books, Doubleday paperback, 1973: same as Variorum paperback; Ticknor & Fields, 1854, first printing: 6 5/16 x 3 1/2, 4 1/4, 170 rods; Norton Critical edition, 1966: 6 6/16 x 3 10/16,

4 5/16, 171 rods; actual length of pond as stated on map, 175 1/2 rods; Variorum Walden, 1962; 6 1/2 x 3 10/16, 4 9/16, 182 1/2 rods; Annotated Walden, 1970: 7 7/16 x 4 2/16, 5, 200 rods; Illustrated Walden, Princeton, 1973: 7 15/16 x 4 7/16, 5 6/16, 215 rods; Franklin Library edition, 1976: 9 10/16 x 6 5/16, 6 5/16, 252 1/2 rods. The closest was the Norton Critical edition, and the next closest were two paperbacks. It was difficult to measure the Franklin Library edition due to the fact the map was used as a centerfold and it was hard to measure in the crease.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER . . .

Beginning with this issue of the bulletin we shall list the availability of unique items of Thoreauviana (that is, manuscripts, association copies, etc.) as we learn of them.

Holograph plan of Nathaniel Hawthorne's Estate in Concord, Mass. Surveyed by Thoreau, Aug. 20, 1860. \$25,000. M & S Rare Books, Box 311, Weston, Mass. 02193.

Thoreau's copy of R. Spence Hardy, MANUAL OF BUDDHISM (London: Partridge & Oakey, 1853) with both Thoreau's and Bronson Alcott's signatures on the title page. \$1500. Archives, 119 Chestnut Hill Rd., Wilton, Conn. 06897.

Autograph manuscript, not signed, of two leaves of the text of "Chesuncook" as submitted to James Russell Lowell for the ATLANTIC. \$1750. Walter R. Benjamin, P.O. Box 255, Scribner Hollow Road, Hunter, N.Y. 12442.

Autograph letter from Thoreau to Mr. Fields of Aug. 11, 1854. Unpublished. Laid in a copy of Sanborn's PERSONALITY OF THOREAU. \$3750. Current Co., Bristol, R.I.

A collection of approximately four hundred volumes chiefly by or about Thoreau, including runs of the major Thoreau periodicals. \$3850. Harbor Hill Books, P.O. Box 407, Harrison, N.Y. 10528.

NOTES AND QUERIES . . .

Sachiko Fujisawa of Tokyo, Japan; Lenore M. Reed of Milton, Mass.; and Harold J. Spelman of West Chicago, Ill., have all recently become life members of the Thoreau Society. Life membership is one hundred dollars.

A bill sponsored by Massachusetts state senator Chester Atkins and signed by Gov. King appropriates one million dollars to develop a fresh water swimming area in the locality as an alternative to Walden Pond to take some of the population pressure off Walden.

The ad hoc committee, chaired by Dana Greeley, working on a merger proposal for the Thoreau Society and the Thoreau Lyceum, have been meeting regularly all winter. Their final proposal will be presented in the spring bulletin for action at the annual meeting in July.

The annual meeting of the society will be held on Saturday July 9, 1983, with

Ann Zwinger as president, and Roderick Nash, author of WILDERNESS AND THE AMERICAN MIND (Yale, 1967), as speaker of the day.

The Walden Pond Advisory Committee in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Management is to hold a public meeting on January 18, 1983, to review a preliminary analysis of the bathhouse area of the state park.

In response to Jim Dawson's note in the spring bulletin about the bent nails found in the Walden cellar hole, Marianne Walker of Henderson, Kentucky, writes, "Unseasoned 'green' lumber is much easier to drive nails into than seasoned wood. It is a common practice here in Kentucky as it surely must have been in Massachusetts to salvage used nails to straighten and drive again. I know many older people, mainly conservative farmers, who tell me that entire houses were built with 'crooked' nails. It has always seemed obvious to me that Thoreau just collected crooked nails to be reused. Perhaps he collected more than he ever needed and so dumped the extras. But nobody is ever going to convince me that Henry could not drive a nail." And Sam Wellman of Gates Mills, Ohio, writes, "I believe that the bent nails, or most of them at least, were nails which Henry drew out of the boards from the shanty which he bought for the lumber it contained rather than being to any extent nails he had bent in driving them." Yet Thoreau tells us in WALDEN that his neighbor Seeley stole the nails he had drawn out of the Collins shanty wood, and he also tells us in WALDEN that he spent \$3.90 for nails, which in those days would have purchased a tremendous number of new nails and an unbelievable amount of used nails.

WANTED: HENRY DAVID THOREAU by Walter Harding

Having been on the search for Henry Thoreau for many years, I recently drew up for my own amusement and that of my friends the wanted poster printed on the back page of this bulletin, and am reprinting it here by request. (Anyone wishing to have a copy of the original poster need only send me a self-addressed stamped envelope.)

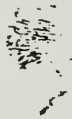
For those wishing to know the sources of the information: Thumbprint: JOURNAL, V, 4-5; Autograph: Letter of October 14, 1855; Photograph: Leonard Baskin drawing of Maxham daguerreotype for the 1967 U.S. postage stamp; Height: Harding, DAYS OF HENRY THOREAU, p. 24; Weight: JOURNAL, II, 505; Eyes: Channing, THOREAU, THE POET-NATURALIST (1873), p. 25; Hair: Ibid., p. 25; "Pelt": Shepard, PEDLAR'S PROGRESS, p. 506; Scars: Channing, THOREAU, THE POET-NATURALIST (1902), p. 4; Occupation: JOURNAL, V, 4; False teeth: Ibid., II, 194; Burr: Channing (1873), p. 4; Bank-robbing: CAPE COD (1906), p. 177; Burning of Constitution: Harding, DAYS, p. 318; Public riot: Ibid., p. 423; Hat size: DAYS, p. 288.

As several of my friends have pointed out, I really missed the boat on the list of his criminal activities. I should have included "Arson": DAYS, 159-161.

WANTED

Henry David Thoreau

ALIASES: David Henry Thoreau, Henry D. Thoreau, H. D. Thoreau, H.D.T.



Right thumbprint

Henry D. Thoreau.



7121817

Photograph taken 1856

DESCRIPTION:

BORN: July 12, 1817. Concord, Mass.
HEIGHT: 5' 7
WEIGHT: 127 pounds
EYES: Grey blue
NOSE: Preposterous
HAIR: Dark brown. Usually disarrayed.
Very hirsute. Arms covered with
pelt-like hair.
BUILD: Slight. Very rounded shoulders.
SCARS: One toe chopped off.
OCCUPATION: A mystic, a transcendental-
ist, and a natural philosopher to
boot.
REMARKS: Wears false teeth. Speaks with
a burr. Hat size: 7.

Jailed, July, 1846, Concord, Mass., for non-payment of taxes. Suspected of robbing Freeman Bank, Provincetown, Mass., Oct. 23, 1849. Known frequent violator of Fugitive Slave Law. Participated in public burning of U.S. Constitution, Framingham, Mass., July 4, 1854. Outspoken supporter of convicted conspirator John Brown, 1859. Acknowledged participant in public riot preventing U.S. marshal from serving U.S. Senate subpoena, Concord, Mass., April 3, 1860. Author of several subversive documents.

CAUTION: Known to be frequently armed with an umbrella or a heavy walking stick and a botany book.

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS PERSON, PLEASE CONTACT CONSTABLE SAMUEL STAPLES, CONCORD JAIL, CONCORD, MASS.